

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-17 and 19-24 presented above were previously indicated to be allowable and remain unchanged from their allowable status.

New Claims 25-30 are presented for consideration. These new claims include independent Claims 25, 26 and 27. Claim 25 defines a guide wire comprising first and second wires joined to each other by welding at a welded portion, with the second wire disposed on the proximal side of the first wire. The welded portion formed comprises a projection projecting in the outer peripheral direction, wherein the projection includes a welded surface. Claim 25 also recites that the welded surface of the welded portion is offset toward either the distal side of the first wire or the proximal side of the second wire relative to the center of the projection (i.e., the center considered with reference to the axial extent of the guide wire). Fig. 13 illustrates an example of a guide wire in which the welded surface is offset from the center (axial center) of the projection. Paragraph [0131] of the present application also describes examples of the welded surface being offset relative to the center (axial center) of the projection.

Claim 26 also defines a guide wire comprising first and second wires joined to each other by welding at a welded portion, wherein the second wire is disposed on the proximal side of the first wire, and wherein the welded portion comprises a projection projecting in the outer peripheral direction. The projection includes a welded surface and the projection possesses a maximum-outer diameter portion. In addition, the welded surface of the welded portion is axially spaced from the maximum outer-diameter portion of the projection. Fig. 13 illustrates an example of a guide wire in which the welded surface is axially spaced from the maximum outer-

diameter portion of the projection. Paragraph [0131] of the present application also describes examples of the welded surface being axially spaced from the maximum outer-diameter portion of the projection.

New independent Claim 27 defines a method of using a guide wire that involves introducing a guide wire into a living body and advancing the guide wire in a coronary artery of the living body. As recited, the guide wire comprises first and second wires joined to each other at a joined portion, with the second wire being disposed on the proximal side from the first wire, and wherein a projection projects in the outer peripheral direction at the joined portion. As claimed, the guide wire is advanced in the coronary artery of the living body to position the guide wire such that the projection of the guide wire is located in the vicinity of the aortic arch. Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate, and paragraphs [0092]-[0094] describe, an example of this use of the guide wire.

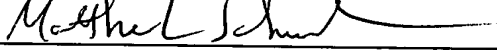
Favorable consideration of the new claims presented here is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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